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Method F12

Inquiry Application

The Inquiry project we completed we completed was a very in depth and involved process. It was challenging and I did in fact learn a great deal about my subject. It would take a lot of guidance from a teacher for middle schoolers to complete a project like this. I can see how it could be used in both Language Arts and Social Studies. I like the Paul Harvey idea as well, It is harder to use with some topics than others but that is okay because it causes student to use higher order, more out-of-the-box thinking to complete the task. I would definitely use something like this in my class for both Language Arts and Social Studies.

In Language Arts I could see this being used as a biography assignment. Writers of great literature often lead interesting, sometimes clandestine, lives, and this would be a great way to get students to learn more about the authors they are reading about. In Social Studies there are a plethora of opportunities to use something like this. You could use the inquiry process to learn more about specific cultures or even parts of those cultures. There is no shortage of important people in history to research. Also, big events in history would be great topics to learn about in this way. The Paul Harvey assignment would be a great way to extend assignments in which students decide to do a biography about someone. I think in my class I would require the Paul Harvey assignment for students who chose to research people and a documentary for those who decide to research cultures of events.

In the Common Core students are pushed to learn how to extract information and compile it in an efficient way. Because the project can be so extensive there is the possibility of covering

many standards in one fell swoop. Students are required to read informational texts, make inference and make and support a solid thesis. The inquiry project requires all of these things in tandem to successfully be completed. The Paul Harvey/Documentary aspect covers the necessary exposure to technologies and multi-media required by the common core so this project would be an excellent choice for a project in a classroom.

I would use this as a quarter long assignment. I would have students pick a topic in the first week of class and then have check points throughout the quarter. I think because they are just beginning to hone their research abilities they will need a lot of guidance. So, I would have one day every week where they bring in all their materials and we spend the whole class period working on the project. I would have a well structured rubric, much like the one we used, and have certain parts of the project at planned intervals. I would have them keep all their materials in a binder and accompanied by a thumb drive so that there is no reason that anything should go missing.